SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

7th Year – July 23, 1973

No 207

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

editorial

Release at once civilian personnel still held in South Viet Nam

OVER the last five months, there has been universal concern over the fate of over 200,000 political prisoners in South Viet Nam. Saigon has been holding them in the teeth of the Paris Agreement and its Protocol which has unequivocally stipulated: "The two South Vietnamese parties will do their utmost to resolve this question within ninety days after the cease-fire comes into effect." The Joint Communiqué has also fixed a 45-day deadline for their return. But apart from some hundreds of them released under the pressure of public opinion in early May, Saigon has not freed any other. It has raised all kinds of difficulties to delay the operation and even some of the detainees who were on the list of the first batch have not been handed back.

MEANWHILE the Thieu regime continues to deny the existence of political prisoners, which is left in no doubt. A Saigon representative, Ho Ngoc Nhuan, in a White Book on political prisoners, described the 200,000 figure as not exaggerated an estimate and commented that while the Vietnamese people affirmed that political detainees did exist, Thieu alone contended that they did not.

The whole world has agreed with the Vietnamese that not only do they exist but they are also quite numerous in South Viet Nam. Pope Paul VI, too, expressed concern over the matter when receiving Thieu, and so did the West German President during his meeting with him at his hunting lodge.

Everyone knows that at present there are under the Thieu rule 542 prisons including 21 for political detainees and 521 local jails, famous for their large population and harsh regime. The most sinister are Con Son, Chi Hoa, Thu Duc, Phu Quoc, Tan Hiep, Cho Quan and Go Vap. Added to many secret jails run by US and Saigon Army Intelligence organizations, the whole prison network comprises something like 1,000 establishments.

It is natural that there are found also common law offenders, victims of a corrupt regime. But their number represents only a small fraction of the total of the inmates which embraces all opponents of Thieu's rule, of Thieu himself and of his clique, held on charge of "harming national security" and all partisans of democratic freedoms, peace and neutrality, accused of being "communist elements."

Thieu has been trying hard to put on them the "common law offenders" label to dodge releasing them. To this effect, he has had prisoners dispersed to many places, transferred to other jails, or their files destroyed or replaced by "common law criminals" records. He has staged some "release" farces, aimed at secretly disposing of many prisoners and at cutting many others off their families and separating them from their mates.

Also in flagrant violation of all the provisions regarding their treatment, tens of thousands of them have been brutalized and tortured in the most horrible manner, and many have become invalids for life while not a few others have died.

The atrocities have recently be intensified in proportion to the protest of the detainees. According to a denunciation of the Committee for a Better Prison Regime in South Viet Nam, tear gas grenades were hurled into cells at Con Son. Between April 14 and May 6, over 500 prisoners were injured and many lost their life as a result of such horrors. At Chi Hoa jail, on June 14 and 15, similar cruelties were inflicted on all its 7 wards and many inmates were marched off, including 14 brought to a "court martial."

In the meantime, "pacification," "Phoenix" and police raids have been mounted, tens of thousands of arrests have been made and have increased the prison population since the entry into force of the Paris Agreement. Such grievous infringements have only aggravated the issue.

WHAT has motivated them? No doubt it is Thieu's fear of the political prisoners' protest movement and determination. It is his dread that the returnees should swell the revolutionaries' ranks. Another reason has been supplied by The He, *a Vietnamese student magazine appearing in Canada in its issues number 29 and 30: as there are many pupils, students, intellectuals, peasants, workers, Catholic and Buddhist priests among the prisoners, Thieu is afraid that once at liberty they should tell the truth about his jails, which would pour oil on the flame in the hearts of the people. Another explanation is the presence among the prisoners of personalities belonging to the third force who will strengthen it if they are released.*

But Thieu's desperate attempt is just like jumping out of the pan into the fire. It only throws a more ghastly light on the nature of his rule.

The US administration must have its share of responsibility for Thieu's crimes and the Vietnamese nation's suffering, because it has been providing Saigon with ways and means to build and consolidate its network of prisons and its excecutioners with torture and interrogation techniques. All Saigon victimization and atrocities serve US neo-colonialist purposes. Thieu's delaying and wrecking the return of civilian personnel is but part of a scheme to maintain the state of war, to grab land by force and to exacerbate enmity and hatred among fellow-countrymen.

Such behaviour is at utter variance with the letter and spirit of the Paris Agreement and Joint Communiqué. It interferes with and prevents the settlement on South Viet Nam's internal political problems in the spirit of national reconciliation and concord. It contravenes the people's primary democratic freedoms. It forestalls all measures to set up the National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord, and to organize the genuinely free and democratic election of a Constituent Assembly whose job it will be to elaborate a Constitution and appoint a regular government for South Viet Nam. Such a consultation of the people's will is inconceivable while tens of thousands of patriots and partisans of freedom, independence and peace are still languishing in Saigon jails.

MORE than any other people, they deserve enjoyment of peace, independence and freedom, on account of their services to the country. They must be reunited with their families after so many years of separation. They must be returned to freedom, to a decent life, to happiness of which they have been for long deprived. An end has been put to the war, an end must be put to their sufferings caused by the war. The Thieu administration must abolish its atrocious prison regime, discontinue all brutalities against prisoners, give them a humane treatment, let National Red Cross Societies acceptable to both sides visit its detention centres. And most important of all, it must return our civilian personnel within the time-limit set by the Joint Communiqué.

The Vietnamese people and world progressives will give enough leverage to their action to force the Thieu regime to strictly comply with the instruments signed in Paris.

SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

More patriots, more fighters for peace, freedom and democracy confined in Thieu's overcrowded jails

S.O.S. from Con Son prisoners

Following are excerpts from a letter from detainees at the Con Son prison, telling part of the atrocities that have been committed in this hell on earth. Joining the victims, we denounce the attempt of the Saigon regime to protract and impede the return of thousands of fighters for peace, liberty and democracy, stipulated by Article 8 (c) of the Paris Agreement — Ed.

..." ON May 5, 1973, Saigon authorities picked out 107 detainees from Camps 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8 of the Con Dao (Con Son) prison, tortured them into affixing their fingerprints on prepared 'release papers' branding them as "dishonest people and unsubdued party members." The stronger the prisoners' protest, the harsher the beatings. The detainees were later on sent to the 'movie hall' of Chi Hoa prison (Saigon). The fate of all the 107 political prisoners is gravely jeopardized. Between the 8th and the 24th of May, 1973, Saigon authorities took them to the General Police Department in several batches, then dispersed them in a great many places of Saigon city in small groups of 3 to 5 each. The police and the secret police murdered a number of them and took another number to unknown destinations...

"Among the 107 male and female prisoners were Dang Van Hung of Quang Nam, Nguyen Van Tu of Kien Phong and Trieu Cong Tinh of Saigon. We do not know what has become of them.

"On February 16, 1973, prison authorities assembled 182 male and female detainees suffering from paralysis for 3 to 5 years in Sectors G, H, J, C and D of tiger-cage Camp 7. They brought them on stretchers onboard a C.130 cargo plane which took them to Bien Hoa interrogation centre from which they were scattered throughout Nam Bo to be placed under police surveillance. One of the 14 confined in Pagoda Ong, My Tho city, had this to say on February 24, 1973: Of those released at Huu Nghia, Tran Van Hiep of Gia Dinh and Tran Ngoc Hoang of Long An were arrested again and sent nobody knows where! All the 14 said that on February 14 and 15, in four flights, C.123s carried away a number of sick prisoners from Con Dao (among them 45 cripples from tiger-cage Camp 7) allegedly to Tactical Zone II, but nobody has heard of them ever since. They also said that when they left the tiger-cages over 20 still remained there and although they could move only by crawling with their hands, they continued to undergo very harsh detention conditions and savage torture.

"The Saigon administration has recently replaced Dao Van Pho by Nguyen Van Ve at the head of Con Dao Prison. Ve is much more cruel than Pho. Between April 28 and May 5, 1973 he personally directed a ruthless crack-down by wicked thugs and a field police battalion. At Camp 6, Sector B, the rascals hurled 300 tear-gas grenades into wards 1, 2, 3 and 4, causing many inmates to faint, then broke in and set about clubbing them. They dragged a number on the ground up to the gate some 1,000 yards away: seven were killed (65-year-old Cuc, Ho Chi Tung of Kien Phong, Nguyen Loi of Quang Nam, Chin of Ca Mau, etc.) and 370 seriously injured. A week earlier, April 20, Nguyen Van Ve cynically told the inmates: "Though the administration did not tell you of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam after it was signed, you heard of it and raised a fuss about it. That's why President Thieu's government has to take appropriate measures against you. You know that he declared on January 28, 1973 that everything would go on as before, that he would not change his policy, that torture, interrogation and detention would continue. Your life will be taken if the government deems it necessary."

"At Camp 5, violence was three times resorted to between January 28 and April 7, 1973, each time for over a week under the command of the camp chief himself — Dan. The thugs locked the wards and threw in lime, excrements and other filth through small openings: many inmates swooned. On March 25, prison superintendents beat a number to unconsciousness. And on April 7, Nguyen Ngon was beaten to incapacity and 5 others to instant death.

"In early March 1973, under the pretence that dossiers contained "suspicious details", superintendents in charge of preparing for the return of prisoners separated a number of detainees—Huynh Huu Dai among them—from 43 others of Camp 8. Dai was brutalized all along the way from Hang Duong beach to Camp 8 and back, and finally taken to an unknown place.

"In three weeks, between April 14 and May 6, 1973, prison authorities beat to death 14 political detainees and wounded over 500.

Between January 28 and April 24, they shifted 300 from Camp 8 alone to other places. At present, 5,000 inmates of Camps 4, 6-A, 6-B 7 and 8 are not on the returnees' list. As for those of Camps 1, 2, 3 and 5 who have been informed that they are on the list, the latter has not yet been drawn. Late last June another 80 prisoners were transferred to Kontum, of whom several have disappeared.

"Thousands of prisoners sentenced to hard labour are being ill-treated in various camps dubbed East Wind, Emperor Quang Trung's Rest Place, Charcoal office, Pepper office, Brick-making Factory, Chalk-making Factory, etc. At all these places, together with spies and thugs, the wards acting as service chiefs, exploit the labour of the prisoners and beat anyone at any time they like. It often occurs that they shoot dead those who are too weak to do hard work.

"In groups of 2 to 10, hard-labour prisoners are forced to do chores such as cooking, washing, house cleaning for the jail director, officers and soldiers. Their unpaid services do not spare them insults from whom they serve, especially since Ve has become director.

"Aside from stealing half of the daily starvation rations of the detainees, the warders appropriate their belongings: wrist watches, fountain pens, clothes, even women's underwear.

"They also keep for their own use parcels sent by the detainees' families.

"While attempting to turn civilian personnel (political prisoners) into common-law criminals, the Con Dao Prison authorities brought a great many inmates (including Prof. Le Quang Vinh) of Ward 11, Camp 2, a number of former 'Labour Youth' Organisation members and Saigon students of Ward 5, Camp 8 to the solitary confinement Sector of tiger-cage Camp 7, an experimental torture centre where 'dangerous elements' used to be held. Presently a sizable number of patriots have been detained at Con Dao for 12 to 18 years without trial, especially in Sector B, Camp 6. Brutalities are frequent. Their lives are hangirg by a hair. Many have disappeared.

"Prisoners are languishing at Con Dao under a penitentiary regime of unheard-of barbarity. Bloody horrors continue and there is danger that they may lead to mass massacres. More and more new prisoners are brought in and the detention regime is becoming harsher with every passing day.

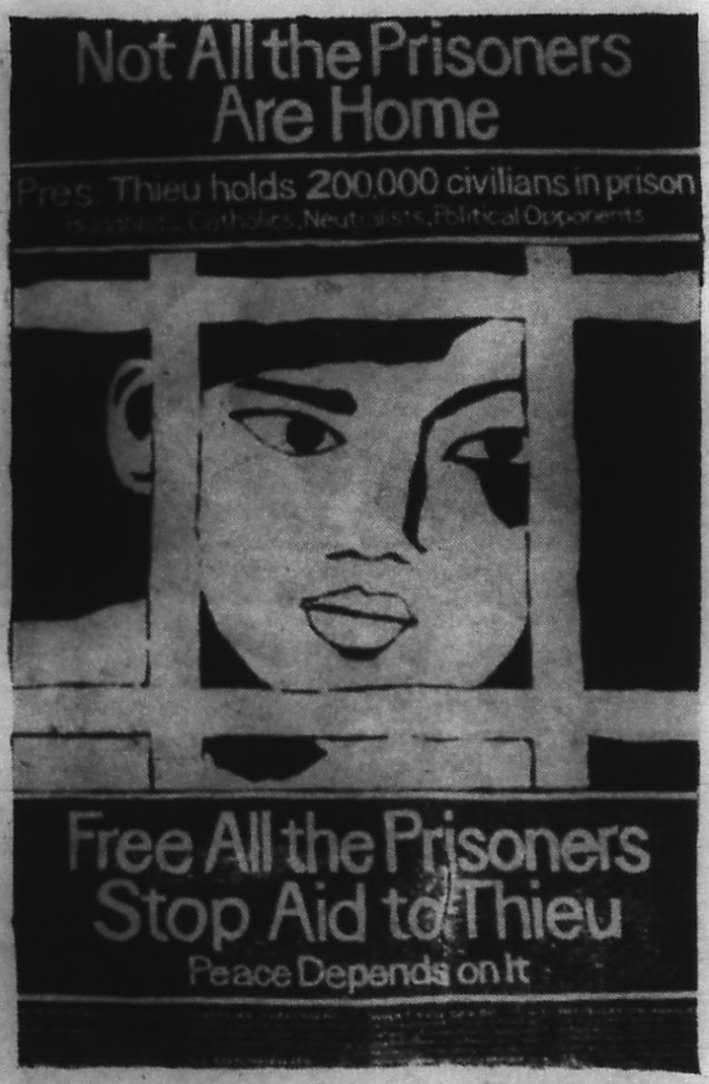
"In such a situation, a rapid and total return of civilian and military personnel is an urgent necessity to save the lives of thousands of sons and daughters of our nation — honest, patriotic, independence-, freedom-, democracy- and peace-loving ones now being ill-treated and facing physical liquidation."

"The above-mentioned facts once again point to the urgency of an issue which has been long since a pressing one."

July 30, 1973

On behalf of the political prisoners

NGUYEN TRUNG DUNG
VO THANH MINH
LE THI THANH THUY


Not All the Prisoners Are Home
Pres. Thieu holds 200,000 civilians in prison
Buddhists, Catholics, Neutralists, Political Opponents
Free All the Prisoners
Stop Aid to Thieu
Peace Depends on It

Poster issued by the Committee of American Friends

Thieu's "democratic liberties"

"Democratic liberties" suppressed

o Recently, though forced to set free a number of students detained since May 1972 for resisting the curfew, the Saigon administration refused to issue them the necessary papers, thereby actually confining them to "house arrest," apart from the obligation to report to the "special police" once a month.

o On June 14, after the signing of the Joint Communiqué, Bui Bao Truc, spokesman of the Saigon administration said : "The government of the Republic of Viet Nam (read the Saigon administration) reserves for itself the right to impose limitations on democratic freedom."

o On July 5, the same spokesman threatened to "court martial", and pass death sentences on, the president of the oil and chemicals workers' TU, the chairman of the private bank-employees' TU and the secretary general of the Saigon Railway workers' TU, on charge of "disturbing law and order and harming national security."

o The June 23 and 24 issues of the daily *Dien Tin* were seized. Previously on June 21, the Saigon administration had also confiscated an issue of the paper *Cong Luan*. The teams distributing these papers were also bullied by policemen.

o On May 20 and June 17, at Vinh Long, the inhabitants were forced by men of the Saigon administration to go to the polls to elect "village councils." Soldiers were ordered to cast their votes first, each of them from 40 to 50 ballots for candidates picked up beforehand. The inhabitants were forced at bayonet points to vote for authorities' people.

o In mid-June, the police of Can Tho town evicted hundreds of traders at Hang Duong market, smashed their furniture and looted their goods.

Fighting for democratic freedom

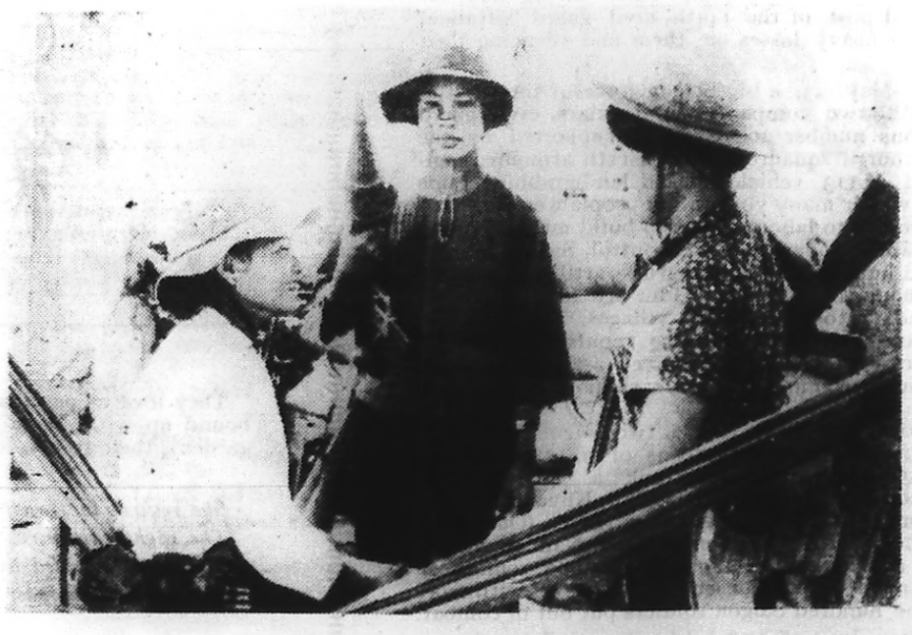
o In June, Thua Thien-Hue people staged vigorous actions against the Saigon administration for democratic freedoms, better living conditions, release of political detainees, permission to see their imprisoned relatives. Especially, after the publication of the Joint Communiqué, their movement has reached a new height, urging that the Thieu administration strictly implement the cease-fire order, quickly restore peace and enforce democratic freedoms as stipulated by the Paris Agreement and the Joint Communiqué.

o In a talk on the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the South Viet Nam "Unified Buddhist Association" exposed the Saigon administration's non-ensurance of democratic freedoms, persecuting and arresting its political rivals.

o On June 29, many Saigon "MPs" and "representatives" raised their voices strongly against the present bellicose and fascist policy of the Saigon administration. They held the enforcement of democratic freedoms provided for in Article 11 of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam as a *sine qua non* condition at the present juncture, and consequently the fight for them was an urgent necessity.

o On July 3, ten "MPs" put out a statement denouncing that the election of half of the Saigon "Upper House" was but a travesty of democracy as the tickets were only those of Thieu's men and their returns had been decided beforehand by him.

in our liberated zone



⊙ *Peace once restored, the fighters and local population begin turning these dunes into green paddies*

⊙ *Donkeys captured from the enemy for transport*

⊙ *The enemy is still stubborn : these young girls have to keep their arms*

Land grabbers punished

o From July 5 to 8, 1973, Saigon artillery fired more 2,700 rounds on Trung Nghia, Ngo Thanh, Plei Krong and and Peak 674 while AD.6 aircraft dropped nearly 50 bombs on Trung Nghia and Kleng to cover an encroaching attack on the said areas. But the land grabbers were duly punished by the Liberation Army in Kontum province and lost two companies of Battalion 1 and Battalion 2 of the 45th battalion, and two armoured vehicles destroyed.

On July 9 and 10, 1973, Saigon guns slammed another 850 rounds on Trung Nghia and AD.6 aircraft released more than 50 bombs on the southeastern part of Ngo Thanh and ten reconnaissance planes mounted provocations and spying flights over Dak To, Tan Canh, Dak Rocot and along Highways 18 and 14 (north and northwest of Kontum town). Those actions cleared the ground for an inroad of Battalion 3 of the 47th Regiment into southeastern Ngo Thanh and for another of Battalion 1 of the 45th regiment into Trung Nghia. After many fruitless efforts to persuade the other side to discontinue their violations, the liberation forces and guerillas in Kontum province returned fire and drove them out.

o Early July 1973, the Saigon administration mustered various combat units of the 5th and 18th divisions together with an armour regiment under artillery and air cover into an assault upon the liberated zone along Highway 14 and various areas to the North from Phuoc Vinh to Dong Xoai in Phuoc Long and Binh Long provinces. On July 5, the Saigon military commanders dispatched a division from Tri Thien areas in the North to reinforce the invading force along Highway 14. It was a large-scale operation under the command of the Third Army Corps Area. On the early morning of July 7, Battalion 3 together with Battalions 1 and 2 of the 9th Regiment, 5th Division, in coordination with the 73rd and 84th Ranger Battalions, were thrown into the undertaking. But like others, it was thwarted by the liberation forces who did short work of more than 500 enemy.

o On July 4, a river flottila of the Saigon army entered the liberated area in Vi Thanh, carrying armaments and materials to illegally planted posts along the Ba Lon river. The local liberation forces immediately opened up, sinking many ships and damaging others at Vam Xeo Gia. Meanwhile, the liberation forces in Can Tho knocked out more than 100 Saigon troops on the Ba Lon river, sinking or shooting afire many adverse ships and combat launches.

o On the night of July 2, the liberation armed forces in Quang Nam province beat off assailants when the latter pounded various villages in Northern Cam Khe. The liberation army also shelled enemy artillery sites in Que Son, Tuan Duong and the command post of the 144th civil guard battalion, inflicting heavy losses on them and silencing their guns.

Since May 25, a big Saigon force of three battalions and two companies of regulars, civil guard battalions number 209 and 214 supported by the 3rd armoured squadron and the 11th armoured regiment of M.113 vehicles staged land-grabbing raids during which many youths and people were arrested and forced into labour gangs to build military posts in the areas under Saigon's control. Saigon aircraft dropped hundreds of bombs while artillery sites on Deo Nhong, Deo Phu and Phu My fired thousands of rounds into many PRG villages. The liberation forces in Binh Dinh province repulsed the land-grabbers while launching direct assaults on their operational command and fire support bases.

o From June 27 to July 2, two Saigon battalions of civil guards, ten platoons of militia and one armoured squadron undertook a land-grabbing operation in Phu Dien and Phu Khuong at the junction of the districts of Duy Xuyen (Quang Da province) and Que Son (Quang Nam province). Saigon artillery fired more than 5,000 rounds on these areas. But the onset was fought off with more than one hundred Saigon soldiers put out of combat.

Between June 28 and July 3, five civil guard companies and an armoured squadron made repeated forays into Thach Dong in Tan Hiep district. The village received more than 5,000 rounds from Saigon guns and 72 bombs from their aircraft. The guerillas and liberation army in Rach Gia province inflicted many enemy casualties. The commander of the armoured squadron was killed. On the 25th, 27th, 28th and 29th of June, the liberation forces in Rach Gia province took a toll of 45 Saigon troops, sank or shot afire six warships intruding into the liberated area in Go Quao district.

On the occasion of the founding of the Liberation Art and Literature Association in South Viet Nam

HOMELAND

THROUGHOUT the history of the Vietnamese people's struggle against foreign invasion, for national independence, homeland has always been a predominant theme in our poetry. Our ancestors composed verses while fighting. There have been many poems written in war time as in peace time.

All things considered, our Dai Viet
Is truly a nation with a culture.

NGUYEN TRAI
Proclamation on the pacification of the Ngo invaders

That was no excessive pride. Sober, simple, those words carry all the weight of a cultural history. Patriotic poetry and songs always accompany the vicissitudes of the nation. If in Nguyen Khuyen's works, Vietnamese landscape breathes freshness, tenderness and sweetness, in Phan Boi Chau's patriotic poems, in Lanh Co's orders of the day and in Nguyen Dinh Chieu's funeral oration..., our native land writhes in acute sufferings and boils with unbounded wrath.

Inheriting and developing that patriotic literature, our present-day poetry is filled with the fiery fervour of a nation standing in the forefront of a tough battle. Grand moments are there, waiting for poets and their minds to embrace them.

The Vietnamese love nature, peace, and life with all their simplicity and poetic character. They love quiet rivers, serene sunsets on calm seas, all that is most familiar in everyday life.

O homeland, on afternoons of marine calm
Flying fishes dart past like arrows,
On summer nights the green glow of lamps attract cuttlefish,
And bobbing on the water the jelly fish has a tryst with the tide.

THU BON
The Ch' Rao bird's song

They love a peaceful, tranquil life, one that is bound up with their paddies, their gardens, their gardens, their rivers, their sky.

She returns to transplant the seedlings,
The night rain turns Duc Hue into sky and water
My boat is guided by the stars' light,
Fields and milpas listen to her oars' splashing.

GIANG NAM
This Land

It's hard to delineate the borderline between man and nature.

Thu Bon, our river ! I hear the breathe,
Thy immense waves washing the hair of mulberry fields.

Kiss the patch of native land

It is no accident that our poets devote much space to rivers in their works. Viet Nam teems with rivers, entangled like arteries and veins in a human body. They carry alluvion and constitute a source of vitality for man. It seems as though a river flows in every poet, each with its own beauty. TE HANH spells out what binds him to "his" river :

There is a blue river in my home village,
Which mirrors the bamboo's hair
My soul is like a summer afternoon
When the sun makes the river glitter
Does thy stream keep memories
Of innumerable happenings in its heart ?
O River, who bathest my whole life.

All rivers, however, have common traits, as all possess currents and undercurrents, and have contributed in one way or another, to the nation's struggle against foreign aggression over the centuries.

Where were you born, oh you, a people of braves
"On the bank of a river", they all answer
If it is not the Da, the Ma, the Red River with limitless sandy shores
It must be the Tra, the Perfume River, the Mekong with nine dragon's heads.

BE KIEN QUOC
Our Streams

Not only the beauty of nature — of rivers and seas and flowers, but also that of a smile, of tiny hands, of the lithe gait of a girl wearing the familiar palm-leaf hat inscribed with a poem in filigrain also moves the poet

The palm-hat inscribed with a poem in filigrain,
The lotos-like lovely hands,
The ancient weather-worn city
So dear to my heart with its gracile and nimble hats.

NGUYEN KHOA DIEM
The Girl wearing a Palm-leaf Hat

But the warm, poetical images of the homeland suddenly vanish. Nothing remains but memories. Tidal waves sweep away everything and the nice, graceful palm-leaf hat, which usually shields pretty faces from shine and rain, has now to confront storms and tempests.

Those hats which used to keep off rain and shine
For our homeland to remain green and lush
Now face storms and hurricanes
In an upsurge with hopes.

NGUYEN KHOA DIEM — Ibidem

The palm-hat is used by the poet as a symbol of the beauty, in peace and war time, of Vietnamese women whose sweetness and gracefulness conceals an unusual strength — the latent strength of the homeland.

The war brought by the invaders has wiped out entire hamlets and villages, destroyed paddies and orchards and thoroughly disturbed the peaceful life of the country folk.

Innumerable fires have burned down to ashes
Mother has withered like plants on milpas and orchards
For countless years human flesh has been rotting,
Day and night, enemy bombs and bullets raining hard
For decades, writhing in bondage
South Viet Nam has been dyed purple in its poor's blood.

SU VANG
Stop over in South Viet Nam

Life in the cities is stifling too. Nobody enjoys it, materially and morally.

Still living
Amidst the dead,
Amidst the dying,
Leading a dark life under a veiled sun
I carry a rifle and feel alive
Listening sadly to the throbbing of the heart
I hear the call of a searching mother
Rummaging in the heaps of rubble for her child's body
During raids of suspect areas
I hear the whirls of the night dance
Peals of laughter echoing from Hell
Laughs mingling with words.
I see a little boy pick up a chunk of bread.

TRAN QUANG HOA
Dear mother heart

The invaders ride roughshed on town streets, village lanes... and mothers' soul, more truculent with every passing day. Tanks level ricefields, aeroplanes tear the blue sky while bombs and shells thunder, mowing down innocent people en masse and reducing whole village to ashes.

Blood stains were all over the shelter
Shreds of embroidered handkerchiefs were caked with mud.
He bent down choking with tears on this plot of homeland,
Picked the children up, weeping,
And laid them down, and brushed the dust off their hair.
Sleep, angels, sleep your eternal slumber.

GIANG NAM

The revelation of the My Lai massacre made every one's hair stand on end. But how many My Lais has American soldiery wreaked on Viet Nam ? Sinh Vien has recorded history's verdict :

War has brought in GI's
Wearing steel helmets
Carrying rifles
And hearts of brutes
And firing on our land
War has brought in mountains of bombs and ambitions
Which rain on tender seedlings
On palm-leaf roofed huts
On mud tracks
Deluges of iron.
Millennia of the future will not be able to explain
The rationale of such deeds of that strange civilization of our times.
War
In the name of war
They peppered with bullets My Lai,
Old folk fleeing away from the fighting
They plastered history.

My Lai — Blood, tears and hatred

The immense sufferings of the homeland seem to be compressed into masses whose explosion generates a tremendous strength. Paddies and marshes have risen up with the Revolution.

It is time to rise up, oh fields and milpas,
The drums are thundering, the red flags covering the sun
The thudding steps of insurgents stamping in concerted actions.

MAC QUYEN
In the liberated fields

Towns and cities, too, have stood up with students in the van. They assemble, numerous like trees in the forest, and turn out in the streets combat-ready.

This morning first in the firing line,
An innocent youth, a schoolgirl
Called for the right to live
And reddened the blue of peace with her blood.

V.H.L.
The Flowing White Tunic

They always enjoy support, protection and love from the townsfolk, especially the labouring people, as is expressed in The Mother of Ban Co by LE KIM NGAN :

In Ban Co. an elderly lady,
Arms thin like dry twigs, hair white like snow
Sneaked food through a barrier
While outside it rained hard.
In Ban Co, a young woman
Amidst a yardful of guards
Saved a student by claiming to be his wife
In Ban Co a lovely girl
Managed to get word through
Saw me out of harm's way
And waved farewell, lonely in her heart.

The Vietnamese have never shrunk in face of their mad and vicious enemy. Resolute and one-minded, they have risen up in the strong offensive posture of the Revolution. They seem to gather for a great festival, their minds refreshed by the Revolution's wind. Mountains and rivers have also stood up for the fight. In dire hardships and sufferings, the Homeland evinces examplary heroism.

Today returns an August day
It has been eighteen long years away from you, Mother.
For each day told, one ordeal is counted.
Though weary, I brace myself up for the last leg of the journey
I'm standing here on the majestic Long Range
In the prim of my youth tempered in the Brass Wall
Firm on my legs of iron, staunch in my soul of steel,
Raising high my head, breathing in the air from the East Sea...

TRAN MINH DAO
The August Path

Where do the Vietnamese draw their incredible strength from ? Ho Thu gives a subtle answer :

Your tiny and lithe silhouette on the road
Brings home to me the strength of our land.

Homeland is everyone's flesh and blood, the milk he sucks, the air he breathes—life itself.

The warmth of our immense homeland
Is like mother's sweet and white milk.
The homeland gives me my red blood,
Like the spring dew nurturing vegetation,
Which goes on mirroring the sun rays even after a bombing.

Confidence and strength radiate from the last verse. Under bombs and shells, death seems to lay in wait constantly, every minute, every second. The greatest wonder of life is that the people — the common people — keep calm, never show signs of fear and disquietude.

I've heard the lilt of boatmen's songs
On an afternoon when the Mekong waters are fusing with clouds
I've revisited market places bustling with activity
Bullet scars still on the walls and tileroofs.

GIANG NAM
Heroic Land

or

In my home village in the Centre, drying yards are wide.
The pagodas' bells are sweet to hear,
The forests of coconuts are laden with more fruits.
Each drop of water, each grain of maize, each plant of cassava
Gives me oblivion of life's bitternesses,
Makes my heart throb on, in the freshness of the land.

NGUYEN NHU MAY
Return to Central Viet Nam

They feel calm as though nothing has happened, since, for them, earning their living and fighting has become their way of life. So calm as to discourage, even frighten the enemy. Not because they are indifferent to sufferings and ruins accumulated by him, like those described by VIEN DONG :

Come to my native Cu Chi, the dauntless
And visit each spring meander, each milpa edge.
Not a single plot is untouched by bombs or shells.
Its earth is all blackened with gunpowder
Its rubber forests are pungent with noxious fume.

Come to my native land

In the depth of such a frame of mind is optimism, especially the optimism and spontaneousness of the Vietnamese countryman and woman, without which he or she could not see with his or her mind's eyes the blue sky of hope and the shining sun in stormy weather.

I recall one night wet with tears
When the horizon seemed to bleed in the blaze and smoke of bombs
In my home village spring always comes
Boats laden with hopes still at landing stages.
Last night's rain has washed clean leaves and branches
Tears dried, the azure reappears.

THU BON
Spring time in Mother's Native Place

The simplicity and heroism of her people is another feature of Viet Nam :

Ap Bac, my indomitable land,
Now famed for your fulgent feats,
A land of simplicity
With nenuphars blooming on the ponds
Rows of tram bau, *lines of* binh bat
Patches of green seedlings plots of golden sugar cane
Fragrant with the Vietnamese earth's tang.
All has gone down in history,
Even each whiff of wind.

LE ANH XUAN
Across Ap Bac

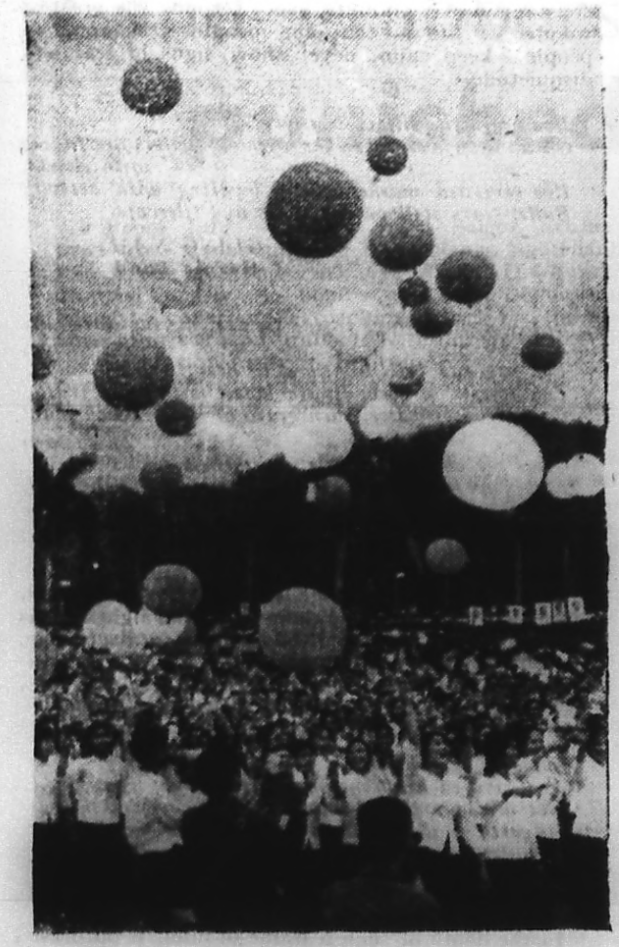
With what simplicity possessed of a tremendous hidden strength the Vietnamese dare to confront the most powerful and cunning foe of mankind of today — to the great surprise of those who want to enslave their country. They do not have an insight into history as Le Anh Xuan does :

Ours is our whole nation's battle,
A four-millenium long march.

QUOC NGUYEN

(to be continued)

Hanoi children celebrating Victory Day



First peace-time summer holidays for North Viet Nam children

SCHOOL boys and girls across the North are having their first peace-time summer holidays.

Great efforts are being made to renovate Pioneers' Clubs in all cities and towns to help make the Victory Vacation more instructive to the youth, with more theatrical groups, more courses on music, drawing, stitching and aeronautics, more sport teams, etc.

In Hanoi, the *Uncle Ho and Children in the Capital City* exhibition has re-opened for visitors from all parts of the country.

Many work-hours have been devoted by parents in the Hai Phong port city, in Nghe An and Thanh Hoa provinces, in the coal-mining province of Quang Ninh, and elsewhere, to the repair of club-houses, parks, gymnasiums and swimming pools while picnics, sight-seeing tours, and other educative activities have been organized.

Crash courses have been run in the Central Pioneers' Club in Hanoi to train monitors for specific activities of the Young Pioneers' Organisation. The music class right now is preparing for a special concert to be performed soon.

The club library is receiving great numbers of avid young readers, who, besides, attend weekly lectures on art and science there.

The authorities, from towns to country, and parents are jointly doing everything to make this summer vacation—the first real one after so many long years of war—an all-round success.

The swift and the swallow

THE nurse looked at the head surgeon's youngish face where a fleeting anxiety had swept through. Unmarried, she was unable to understand the vicissitudes of a woman with child. But as a medical worker, she felt uneasy for that pecular patient.

"I see that Mrs En (Swift) is not so well today, doctor", she said. "She is still delirious and has just fainted."

Dr Do Quang remained silent. He was calling to mind what Vinh, a woman physician of the gynecological department, had told him about her condition. "Go on with your treatment," she said to Dr Do Quang. "I'll take care of the baby. I'll come as often as necessary. Let this case be the joint responsibility of our two departments."

But En's condition did not improve. As an old stager, Dr Do Quang was not too anxious. Still to prevent unpleasant surprises, he called a powwow attended by Dr Sanh, Dr Cu Ba assistant-doctor Dzung, the surgeon who had performed the first operation and Dr Lung, director of the hospital.

Agreement was reached on the necessity of a second surgical operation of her brain to deal with the wound infected before the victim had been taken out of the collapsed air raid shelter. But the problem was to save the baby. Thanks to the devotion of the hospital staff and to her own fortitude, En firmly stood all tests. What about the unborn baby? What would become of it which had tasted danger in its mother's womb? Would it be a hero, or a carpenter or a fisherman like his father? Whatever its future profession, it would be useful to the society and capable of understanding the misfortune of the nation and of itself, and, consequently it would defend and build it zealously. So it must be saved at any cost together with its mother. This was not a challenge to the US imperialists but a practical deed of great ethical significance.

As director of the hospital, Dr Lung gave instructions to all the hospital staff to take particular care of En so that she would be able to stand a second brain operation in her condition.

After the second operation, En was able to sit up and walk slowly in the room. Now she could greet every one with a smile; but her memory was still short and she could not remember what had happened except the drone of American planes and bomb explosions. She still got into such a fright each time she heard an air alert. She could go alone into shelter. When the "all clear" was sounded, she was happy to return to the hospital ward, caressing her swollen abdomen. She felt the baby quickening. She was unable to visualize what it would look like, she was sure the child would see the light of day and cry aloud to announce its arrival...

EN left the hospital three months after the second surgical operation. One day she felt an acute pain in her head and foamed at the mouth and fainted like an epileptic. Her old mother who accompanied her back to the hospital gave a detailed description of her symptoms to Dr Do Quang. Looking at En, the surgeon seemed to see the cause of the relapse. After months of treating En, he and his colleagues had closed her wounds. May be new abscesses had developed.

Dr Do Quang ordered her to be admitted at one and three surgical operations were conducted separately afterwards on abscesses in the brain. Yes, three separate operations while her time was fast nearing.

In the handling of En case, the surgeons and gynecologists closely cooperated. Before and after each operation, Dr Vinh would come and examine the baby's condition and give instructions to preserve it: queerly enough, it was growing up. It showed growing signs of life as if at the most critical moment when En's life was hanging on a thread, the child in her womb also understood that it was also necessary for it to survive the injuries inflicted on its mother by the aggressors, into a regular human being.

All the staff of the Viet Nam—Czechoslovak Hospital devoted heart and soul to save En. Every one from the specialists to the hospital hands and cooks regarded the case of that pregnant patient not only as a moral but also a sentimental responsibility. They all wished her baby good luck. Five successful operations had illustrated the surgeons' professional skill, a skill steeled and developed by practice, sometimes in defiance of all established laws.

En's staying power was also quite extraordinary. After undergoing five operations during which she had many times a narrow escape, En and her baby were alive, and Dr Vinh, the gynecologist, was prompted to say: "Whether a boy or a girl, the baby has shown a resolve to live on more powerful than any B.52 raid. It has taken shape, developed and is coming to the world amidst the explosion of American bombs."

It was eventually born in the thick of a saturation raid.

"A girl" the surgeons and hospital hands shouted while gathering it in their arms.

Her father, a fisherman, smiled shyly.

"What name will you give her?" Dr Lung asked the man.

"Some months ago, my wife and I made up our minds to call our baby Nhan (Swallow). Visibly delighted, Dr Lung said: "*En*, means swift and *Nhan* swallow. Both swift and swallow announce the coming of spring."

Vietnamese TV film wins award at Prague Festival

The television film **Hanoi-Dien Bien Phu** of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam was awarded first prize for journalism and special artistic prize at the recent International Television Film Festival in Prague.

Participating in the Festival were thirty two countries. Hanoi-Dien Bien Phu was the sole Vietnamese entry.

It depicts the valiant and resourceful fight of the Hanoi armed forces and people in the last twelve days of December 1972 against the B.52 air blitz of the US imperialists.

in brief ★ in brief

o The GDR — Viet Nam Solidarity Committee circulated 15,000 sets of photos by Thomas Billhard entitled *Viet Nam — aspiration for peace*, 15,000 sets of drawings by Viet Nam young pioneers, 20,000 records of the song *Solidarity with Viet Nam is now more relevant than ever*, and 15,000 copies of Horst Ramhack's book on the collusion of the West German government with the US aggression in Indochina.

o Over more than a year, Czechoslovak trade union organizations have collected 4,079,000 kroner for the reconstruction of the Viet Nam — Czechoslovak Hospital in Hai Phong and a maternity home in Hanoi, and the building of technical facilities and public works in the liberated zone of South Viet Nam.

At a ceremony on July 6 to announce this result, V. Kozik, Secretary of the Central Council of Trade Union of Czechoslovakia said : "We will keep up this collection in various forms and will initiate many new ones for more contributions to post-war reconstruction of Viet Nam."

o Recently, the France — Viet Nam Friendship Association has sent 4 tons of medical equipment worth 350,000 new francs to a treatment centre for newly-released prisoners from South Viet Nam.

o In its message of solidarity with the Vietnamese, the African Seminar on the Struggle against Colonialism, Racial Discrimination for National Independence and Social Development held in Tananarive "strongly condemned the US and the Saigon administration and urged them to stop at once their repeated violations of the Paris Agreement, observe unconditionally the cease-fire, release all political prisoners detained by Saigon and ensure the democratic liberties of the South Vietnamese."

o Under the title *Recognize the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam*, an editorial of the Norwegian paper *Class Struggle* said early this month that "the present great task of the Norwegian people is to bend their energies on urging their government to 'recognize the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam' and 'sever relations with Saigon'."

"The survival of the Thieu regime depends on US dollars and weapons. This regime is a camouflage of US imperialism in South Viet Nam. So long as it exists, there will be no democratic liberties in South Viet Nam, therefore it represents nobody but Nguyen Van Thieu," the article wrote.

o Branches of the Communist Party of Norway and those of the Communist Youth Union have taken various and ingenuous initiatives to step up "the fund-raising drive for the building of the Nguyen Van Troi Hospital." The municipal councils of Wadden (Northern Norway) and Shessmo (near Oslo), have donated 3,500 kroner.

in brief ★ in brief

the third world in effervescence

Guinea (Bissau)

On May 19, the patriotic armed forces intercepted 800 Portuguese colonial troops rushed in to reinforce their encircled mates in the Guidage camp at the Domingos-Sambuia front on the Northern border. 124 enemy were killed and many others wounded. The patriots then attacked an adverse convoy trying to leave the besieged camp, destroying 3 trucks and killing a number of soldiers. They also shot down 2 planes.

In an assault on 3 other Portuguese troop convoys on Binta-Guidage Highway, the patriotic forces killed 36 men, destroyed 11 vehicles, and captured 23 machine-guns, 2 transceivers and other equipment.

On June 2 and 7, two enemy jet planes were brought down near the Gadamael camp.

On May 25, the liberation forces occupied Guiledje camp, an important strategic position of the colonial army South of Guinea after wiping out one half of the Portuguese soldiers in the base. They also seized 2 guns, 4 mortars, 5 heavy machine-guns, 8 armoured cars and lorries...

In all, between May 19 and June 7, the patriotic armed forces of Guinea (Bissau) knocked out over 200 enemy troops, shot down 4 aircraft, sank 3 ships, destroyed 30 military vehicles and captured 34 guns of various denominations.

Mozambique

The freedom fighters killed some 150 adverse soldiers in a heavy artillery strike on a Portuguese colonial battalion stationed at Tembue in Tete province on June 9. They completely destroyed the command post, material depot and barracks.

Earlier, on April 29, one enemy helicopter was downed in the same province and all men onboard were killed.

— The Conference of African Labour Ministers held in Ethiopia from May 31 to June 2 passed a resolution calling upon the International Labour Organization to expel Portugal from it. It condemned the Portuguese colonialist regime for depriving the workers in Angola, Guinea (Bissau), the islands of Cape Verde, and Mozambique of any right of association or collective bargaining etc. and subjecting them to the infamous practice of forced labour.

Panama

Pointing to the determination of the people of Panama to regain control over the canal zone, Panama's Ambassador to the United States N.G. Revilla said at Michigan State University: "We want to do it peacefully. But if we can't do it peacefully then we will have no other alternative than violence."

For many years, the Panaman government has been ready to negotiate with the US for a new agreement on the canal but the latter has tried to dodge the matter. In March, the US raised the canal issue at the meeting of the Security Council of the United Nations, ignoring the condemnation and the unanimous demand by the participants to give back the sovereignty over the canal zone to the Panaman people.

Mexico

On May 31, 250 eminent personalities in Mexico—deputies, scientists, intellectuals and artistes — including the world-famous painter David Alfero Siqueiros — called on the forces of peace in the country to set up a national committee for the defence of peace and against imperialism.

An appeal launched by them said that imperialism was the exploiter of the peoples, intervened in the internal affairs of other countries and created hotbeds of war.

Peru

The Peruvian Government promulgated on June 14 a decree ordering the withdrawal of the concessions to the Toro Mocho Copper Mine of the American Cerro de Pasco Corporation in Peru because of the failure of the corporation to submit a time table of the exploration and exploitation of the mine within the time limit specified by the Peruvian government. The exploitation of the mine was assigned to the Mining Company of Peru.

Argentina

The Campora government ordered on June 15 the expropriation of the stocks held by foreign monopolies in seven banks operating in the country.

Since 1966, the stocks of the seven banks have been wholly or partially purchased by several US and European financial monopolies.

Referring to the economic policy of the new Argentina government in his May 25 inaugural speech, President Hector Jose Campora stressed the necessity "to secure for the Argentinians the power of economic and financial decision" and "to frustrate activities of international monopolies and agents of economic and financial imperialism."

★ ★ ★

Here and There

Black and White

The *Washington Star*—a one-time pro-Nixon paper—reported on June 27 that John Dean (ex-legal adviser of the US President) had handed to the Senate Watergate Commission a list of "The White House's political adversaries" and accused it of having given instructions to the US Intelligence Agency to watch them and do harm to them. The list contained 207 names, including at least those of 9 Senators (of whom some of the most influential democrats like E. Kennedy, McGovern, Muskie, Fulbright...) George Wallace, governor of Alabama and John Lindsay, Mayor of New York, a certain number of renowned journalists and artistes, long-standing critics of Nixon's policy, comprising of course Jane Fonda.

AFP made known on July 8 that columnist Anderson had revealed that apart from that list, the White House had also a "secret black list" kept by Haldeman (when he was still the chief of the White House staff) and holding the names of Republican Congressmen who were not in league with Nixon or did not see eye to eye with him (Jacob Javits, McHatphew, Clifford Case, Charles Percy, Lowell Weiker...).

As for Jane Fonda, she described it as part of the establishment's harassing campaign, which did not come as a surprise to her, since she had long been low in its favour.

Diplomatic Cavalierism

This year, for US Independence Day (July 4), Mr Nixon received rather unusual greetings wishing him prompt recovery in the Watergate mess and accusing him of being the initiator of mass massacres in Cambodia and scoring US interference in other countries' internal affairs.

The sender was no one else but Uganda's President, General Idi Amin who had so far shown him a few signs of diplomatic cavalierism.

Well, isn't it pretty cool of the chief of state of the small country with a little more than 9 million population, lost in African wilderness, emancipated for only 10 years and having diplomatic ties with the US?

The US President, expectedly instructed his State Department to retort with a *fin de non-recevoir* and a threat not to name anyone as US Ambassador for the time being to tiny Uganda. Let's wait and see how she will get along with a US mission.

But no sooner had three days elapsed than on July 7, she held up a plane carrying 112 members of the US Peace Corps at Entebbe airport. Idi Amin's note on the incident to Eastern African Chiefs of State wrote: 'Because of the unsettled situation in Bujumbura and Ruanda, I've decided to detain this air plane to check whether there are mercenaries and even Israeli among its crew. The latter may take advantage of the present unrest to carry on their subversive activities in the country."

There seems to be no end to Mr Nixon's vicissitudes.

HUONG NAM

DRVN-DPRK

Friendly co-operation growing

According to *VNA*, a delegation of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam led by Pham Van Dong, member of the Political Bureau of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee, and Premier of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, paid an official friendship visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from June 26 to July 1st, 1973.

Kim Il Sung, Secretary General of the Workers' Party of Korea, and President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, received and had conversations with the VNWP and DRVN Government delegation in an atmosphere of warm friendship.

During the visit, the delegation of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam held talks with a delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The talks proceeded in a friendly atmosphere permeated with comradely sentiments.

The joint Communiqué on the VNWP and DRVN Government delegation's visit to Korea said :

"The Korean side strongly condemns the United States for seriously and systematically violating the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, scheming to maintain neo-conialism in South Viet Nam and instigating the Saigon puppet administration to continue their criminal acts of war against the Vietnamese people.

The Korean side hails the Joint Communiqué signed in Paris on June 13, 1973, considering it a new success of the Vietnamese people in their struggle to ensure the scrupulous implementation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam. It resolutely demands that the US and the Saigon administration sincerely carry out all their obligations in the Agreement and the stipulations in the Joint Communiqué they have signed. US imperialism must stop completely and promptly its military involvement and its interference in South Viet Nam.

The Vietnamese side warmly greets the great successes of the Korean people who, under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea headed by Respected Comrade Kim Il Sung, in the difficult conditions of a direct confrontation with the US imperialists and displaying their revolutionary spirit of sovereignty, self-reliance and self-defence, have within a short period, transformed their once backward country into an industrial socialist country endowed with a modern industry, a developed rural economy, an all-people national defence, and magnificent national culture.

The Vietnamese side actively supports the correct stand and the fair and reasonable proposals of the DPRK Government with a view to the peaceful and independent unification of the country as expounded in the letter from the second session of the 5th legislature of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly to the national assemblies and governments of various countries in the world, and especially the 5-point programme clarified on June 23, 1973 by President Kim Il Sung aimed at preventing the permanent partition of Korea and achieving the peaceful and independent unification of the country.

The Vietnamese side resolutely demands that the US withdraw from South Korea its aggressor troops stationed behind the signboard of "UN forces" and dissolve the "UN Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea" and end immediately its aggressive and interventionist scheme against Korea.

The Party and Government delegation of the People's Republic of Korea expresses its sincere and profound gratitude to the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the DRVN Government and the Vietnamese people for their warm sympathy with, and active support, for the just struggle of the Korean people to achieve the peaceful and independent unification of the country."

DRVN-USSR

A new important milestone of the indefectible friendship

AT the invitation ot the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government, a delegation of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the DRVN Government headed by Le Duan, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and Pham Van Dong, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, Prime Minister of the DRVN Government paid an official friendship visit to the Soviet Union from July 9 to 16, 1973.

During its stay in the USSR, the Vietnamese delegation visited the Likhachov plant in Moscow, travelled to Leningrad, where it familiarized itself with places of historical interest and beauty spots and also visited a number of Leningrad industrial enterprises.

In Moscow and Leningrad the delegation attended meetings which developed into a vivid demonstration of the indefectible Vietnamese-Soviet friendship. Everywhere in the Soviet Union the representatives of fraternal Viet Nam were accorded a very warm, heartfelt reception which was an expression of the invariable solidarity of Soviet working people with the heroic Vietnamese people.

During their visit, Le Duan, Pham Van Dong, and Le Thanh Nghi had meetings and talks with L. I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, N.V. Podgorny, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, An. N. Kosygin, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, A.A. Gromyko, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR, A.A. Grechko, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, Minister of Defence of the USSR, and K.F. Katushev, Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

During the talks that took place in an atmosphere of cordiality and comradely mutual understanding, the two sides informed each other of the situation. Questions of further developing the all-round cooperation between the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Soviet Union, as well as the fulfilment of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and other international problems of mutual interest, were discussed.

The Soviet leaders informed the Vietnamese friends about the course of communist construction in the USSR, about the political and labour enthusiasm with which the Soviet people are fulfilling the tasks of the third, decisive year of the five-year plan.

The Vietnamese delegation expressed the warmest feelings of the Vietnamese people for the Soviet people, for the land of the great Lenin, the homeland of the October Revolution — the greatest revolution in mankind's history that opened the era of socialism and communism and showed the peoples the road of struggle for their liberation.

The Vietnamese people sincerely wish the Soviet people, under the leadership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, its Central Committee headed by L.I. Brezhnev, to score new, even bigger successes in fulfilling the grandiose tasks of the communist construction set by the 24th CPSU Congress. This will be a positive contribution to the strengthening of the world socialist system's might and a vigorous inspiration for the struggle of the peoples for the cause of socialism.

The Vietnamese leaders informed the Soviet side of the situation in Viet Nam, about the tasks at the new stage, about measures directed at the strict fulfilment of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, about the rehabilitation of the national economy, and the building of socialism in North Viet Nam.

The Vietnamese side reaffirms the invariable position of the Government of the DRVN and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the position of full respect and undeviating fulfilment of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, and demands that the United States and the Saigon administration act likewise.

The Soviet Union firmly supports the policy of the DRVN and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam directed at the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the preservation of peace in Viet Nam, the building of socialism in North Viet Nam, the development of South Viet Nam along the road of peace, independence, democracy and neutrality and the eventual peaceful reunification of the country.

The Soviet Union will do its utmost to develop its fine relations with the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the only authentic representative of the South Vietnamese population.

Having made an all-round study of relations between the DRVN and the USSR, the Vietnamese and Soviet Party and Government delegations note with huge satisfaction the continuous fruitful development of Vietnamese-Soviet friendship and fraternal cooperation in all the most important fields — political, economic, ideological and also in the field of defence. The two sides discussed the current and long-term tasks of further developing relations between the DRVN and the Soviet Union in all fields.

The two sides agreed :

— to expand fraternal ties between the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the CPSU at various levels, to conduct consultations and exchange views on questions of mutual interest ;

— to contribute to the furthering of economic and technical cooperation between the two countries, including the training of Vietnamese personnel in the field of economy, science and technology, in the interests of rehabilitating and further developing the DRVN's socialist economy and raising the living standard of the Vietnamese people ;

— to encourage the development of ties between scientific and cultural institutions, as well as between public organisations of both countries, to exchange experience of socialist contruction.

During the visit to the Soviet Union by the VNWP and DRVN Government delegation an agreement was reached in principle on the Soviet Union's aid to the DRVN in rehabilitating and developing the national economy. The Soviet side expressed readiness to rehabilitate economic facilities that were built in the DRVN with the Soviet Union's assistance and to help in the creation of new industrial enterprises, including hydro-power projects, facilitating the development of North Viet Nam's socialist industrialization. In 1974 the Soviet Union will supply the DRVN with various industrial and agricultural equipment, means of transport, consumer goods and foodstuffs needed by the population and by the rehabilitation of the national economy.

Proceeding from their invariable internationalist position in the question of giving support to the fraternal Vietnamese people and considering the needs of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam connected with the tasks of rebuilding the war-ravaged national economy, the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government adopted a decision to consider the credits granted by the Soviet Union to the DRVN in previous years for aims of economic development as gratuitous aid. The two sides signed an appropriate document.

SOUTH VIET NAM CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION